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THE NAME AND FAMILY OF BRENTON

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THE NAME AND FAMILY OF BRENTON

The name of Brenton or Brinton is believed by some authorities to have been derived from the residence of its first bearers at Brendon, in County Cornwall, England, but it is probable that it was more frequently derived from their residence in the parish of Brinton, in County Norfolk. It is found on the ancient British and early American records in the various forms of Brendon, Brindon, Braunton, Brentyne, Brentyn, Brintone, Brentone, Branton, Brantan, Brinton, Brenton, and others, of which the last form mentioned is that most generally accepted in America today, and the form immediately preceding it is also frequently used.

Families of this name were to be found at early dates in the English counties of Norfolk, Oxford, Berks, Salop, Huntingdon, Stafford, Northampton, Worcester, Cornwall, and London and were, for the most part, of

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the landed gentry and yeomanry of Great Britain.

One of the most ancient of the branches of the family in England was that descended from Robert de Brinton of Berkshire about the year 1150 A. D., who was the father by his wife Eva of Adam and John. Of these, Adam was the father of a son named Adam, who died in 1274 and was succeeded by his eldest son, also named Adam, who was the father of a son named John, who had lands in Shropshire, Staffordshire, and Oxfordshire and was the father of, among others, a son named Thomas, who died without issue and was succeeded by the descendants of a younger line of the family.

Among the other early records of the family in England were those of Thomas de Brinton of Huntingdonshire about 1273; those of Richard de Brinton of Northamptonshire about the same time; and those of John de Brendon of County Cornwall before 1300, who was the father of a son named John, who had issue by his wife Maude de Cothele of John, Thomas, and Joane, from one of whom Richard Brendon of the early sixteenth century is believed to have been descended. This last mentioned Richard was the father of John and Richard, of whom

the first was the father of John, William, Anthony, Thomas, and others; and Richard was the father of Elizabeth, Peter, John, and Mary.

It is not definitely known from which of the many illustrious branches of the family in England the first emigrants of the name to America were descended, but it is generally believed that all of the Brentons and ~~Brintons~~ were of ancient lineage and, in many cases, of common origin at a remote period.

The first of the name in America was one William Brenton, who is believed to have been the ancestor of the greater number of the families of the name in this country. He came from Hammersmith, near London, England, to Boston, Mass., as early as 1633 and removed shortly thereafter to Rhode Island, of which colony he was governor in 1666 and for several years after that time. He also resided at various times in other parts of New England, including Taunton, Mass., and Portsmouth and Newport, R. I. By his wife Martha Burton he is believed to have been the father of Mary, Martha, Elizabeth, Sarah, Mehitable, Jahleel, Abigail, William, and Ebenezer, of whom Jahleel was an important man in the Rhode Island

colony but died unmarried.

2 William, son of the emigrant William of Rhode Island, is said to have resided at Bristol and to have married Hannah Davis in 1680. Records indicate that their family consisted of William, Samuel, Martha, Benjamin, and Jahleel, of whom the last was the father of another Jahleel, who was a Rear Admiral in the British Navy at the time of the Revolution (all of the members of this line of the family are said to have been Tories) and the father of Sir Jahleel Brenton of England.

Ebenezer, son of the emigrant William of Rhode Island, resided at Swanzey, Mass., and was the father by his wife Priscilla Byfield of Ebenezer, Martha, William, and Sarah, as well as probably of Ann and Elizabeth.

In 1684 one William Brinton is said to have come from Staffordshire, England, to Philadelphia, Penn. He brought with him his wife Ann and his children, William, Elizabeth, and Esther, leaving another daughter, named Ann, in England.

2 William, son of the emigrant William of Pennsylvania, is said to have married Jane Thatcher in 1690

and to have been the father by her of Joseph, William, Edward, Mary, Ann, and John.

One Thomas Briton, whose ancestry is not known, is said to have removed from Boston, Mass., to Mansfield, in the same colony, in the early eighteenth century. He was the father of, among others, a son named Samuel, who was the father of at least one son, Nathaniel, and probably of others as well.

One Moses Brinton, whose ancestry is also unknown but who is believed to have been a descendant of the emigrant William of Pennsylvania, was living in Lancaster County, in the colony, before 1759 and was the father by his wife Eleanor of a son named William and probably of others.

One Lieutenant James Brenton, whose ancestry is also uncertain, is claimed to have been born in Virginia shortly after the middle of the eighteenth century and to have removed to Indiana. By his wife Ellen he was the father of a son named Peter, who was the father by his wife Eleanor Smith of, among others, a son also named Peter.

The descendants of these various branches of the

family in America, and possibly of other lines as well, have spread to all corners of the Union and have aided as much in the growth of the nation as their ancestors aided in its founding. They have been noted for their energy, industry, integrity, mental ability, moral and physical strength, determination, perseverance, fortitude, patience, loyalty, and courage.

Among those of the name who fought in the War of the Revolution in the cause of independence were the before mentioned Lieutenant James Brenton and William, Davis, Henry, John, Joseph, Robert, Samuel, Thomas, Francis, and William Brenton or Brinton of Virginia; Alexander Brenton or Brinton, Samuel and Moses Brenton, and William Brinton of Massachusetts; and others from the various other New England and southern colonies.

Adam, Thomas, Robert, John, James, Samuel, Moses, Richard, Peter, Ebenezer, Joseph, and William are among the most frequently favored of the male Christian names used by the family.

Two of the many members of the family who have distinguished themselves in America at various times were John Hill Brinton of Pennsylvania, noted surgeon,

who was born in 1832 and died in 1907; and Daniel Garrison Brinton of Pennsylvania, surgeon, archaeologist, and ethnologist, who was born in 1837 and died in 1899.

Numerous coats-of-arms are given as belonging to the ancient and honorable family of Brenton or Brinton of England, of which the most frequently recurrent is believed to be that described as follows:

Arms.--"Argent, a chevron gules, between three martlets sable."

(Arms taken from Burke's "General Armory", 1884.)

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